



Australian Bureau of Statistics

Education Services

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Resources



GEO 04 – Population Density

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Subject Area	Geography
Suggested Level	Years 9–10
Overview	The distribution of population may be illustrated in a number of different ways. GEO_03 illustrated the use of dot maps. This activity uses information from the Year Book Australia, 2008 (cat. no. 1301.0) to calculate and map population density for the states and territories of Australia. The advantages and disadvantages of displaying the data in this way are examined.
Requirements	• Sweets/lollies and paper/card squares (optional) • Attachment, Map of Australian states and territories
Instructions	The concept of population density may be introduced using a number of small "lollies" and a small square of plain paper or card. The card

represents one square kilometre. Density is altered by the addition of "lollies" to the paper/card square.

Population density is the number of people per square kilometre. The formula for calculating density is shown below.

Population Density = Number of People/Area of land (square kilometres)

1. Ask students to use the formula to calculate population density and complete Table 1. Correct answers are shown in section 7.

TABLE 1: POPULATION by state and territory, 30th June 2006			
State/Territory	Population	Estimated Area (km ²)	Density of Population People per square kilometre
Australian Capital Territory	334 200	2 358	
New South Wales	6 817 200	800 642	
Northern Territory	210 700	1 349 129	
Queensland	4 091 500	1 730 648	
South Australia	1 568 200	983 482	
Tasmania	489 900	68 401	
Victoria	5 128 300	227 416	
Western Australia	2 059 000	2 529 875	
Australia^(a)	20 701 500	7 692 024	

Source: Year Book Australia, 2008 (cat. No. 1301.0) Table 7.3 and Table 1.1

(a) Includes Other Territories. Other Territories comprise Jervis Bay Territory, Christmas Island and the Cocos(Keeling) Islands.

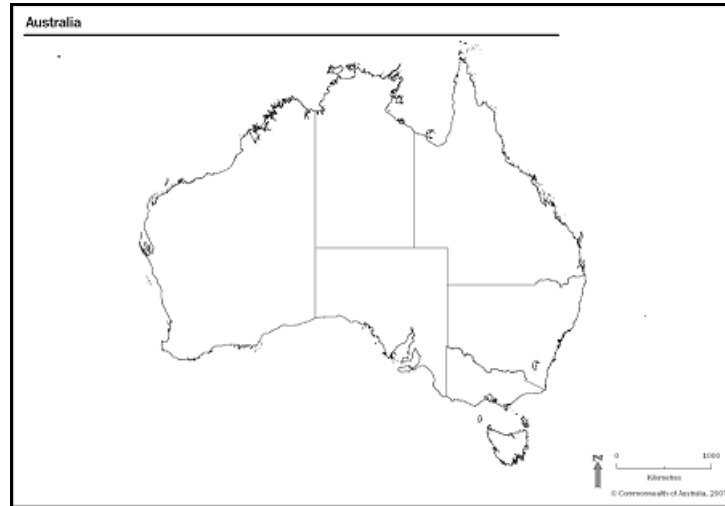
2. Use the data from the table and Figure 1 to display the density of population for Australia's states and territories. Remember to add BOLTSS

(border, orientation, legend, title, scale and source) to the map.

At this point ask students to either:

- identify the categories for the data, or
 - use the categories provided below.
- 100+ people per square kilometre
 - 20-99 people per square kilometre
 - 2-9 people per square kilometre
 - < 2 people per square kilometre.

FIGURE 1: MAP OF AUSTRALIA



3. Identify one advantage and one disadvantage of representing the information about the population in a population density map.

Answers

TABLE 1: DENSITY OF POPULATION FOR AUSTRALIAN STATES AND TERRITORIES, 2006			
State/Territory	Population	Estimated Area (km ²)	Density of Population People per square kilometre
Australian Capital Territory	334200	2358	141.7
New South Wales	6817200	800642	8.5
Northern Territory	210700	1349129	0.2
Queensland	4091500	1730648	2.4
South Australia	1568200	983482	1.6
Tasmania	489900	68401	7.2
Victoria	5128300	227416	22.6
Western Australia	2059000	2529875	0.8
Australia	20701500	7692024	2.7

Source: Yearbook Australia, 2008 (cat.no. 1301.0)

Glossary

Distribution of Population is the spread or arrangement of something over an area.

Density of Population is the number of people per square kilometre.

References

Note: Links to ABS publications are to the most recent release. Previous releases can be accessed by selecting the 'Past & Future Releases' tab.

Year Book Australia, 2008 (cat. no. 1301.0)

Download the Activity

Student Activity



Geo_04_Pop Density_Student Worksheet.rtf

Teacher Solutions



Geo_04_Pop Density_Teacher Answer Sheet.rtf

Attachments



GEO_O4_Map.gif

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